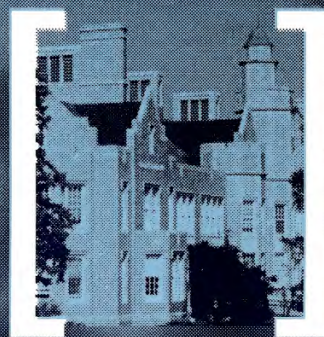


FOCUS

SHED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH FOR THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY



Plattsburgh Makes List of Top Colleges

SUNY Plattsburgh ranked among the "Best Universities in the North" as a master's level institution in the 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report. The rankings are based on assessment by administrators at peer institutions, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

"It is always positive to have an external validation of the quality and caliber of your institution," said Richard Higgins '76, associate vice president for enrollment management. "It says something to parents and prospective students that the college could otherwise not say. I hope it inspires them to come see the full range of benefits SUNY Plattsburgh has to offer."

SUNY Plattsburgh has been gaining steam. The college has once again exceeded its enrollment goals, according to Higgins. For the second year in a row, the college had so many applicants that it had to turn away more than half.

Further fueling its success, the college has created new and distinctive academic programs, has continued to build upon its "student-centered" learning environment and is enhancing the caliber of the student body as well as those in the faculty ranks.

"We have had great success in recent years in bringing high-quality faculty to the college," said SUNY Plattsburgh Provost Jay Stein. "In addition, we have invested in our current faculty with strong support and recognition programs. We also continue to deepen the Plattsburgh experience as a student-centered research college, and this recognition by U.S. News is further proof that we are on the right track."

The rankings are included in the Sept. 1 issue of the magazine, available the week of Aug. 25. SUNY Plattsburgh will also be included in the college guidebook "America's Best Colleges" published by U.S. News & World Report and widely used by students searching for colleges. □



SUNY Plattsburgh Faculty Members Receive Promotions

In his opening address this August, President John Ettling announced that six faculty members have been promoted to full professor and 10 have been promoted to associate professor.

The faculty members promoted to full professor were Dr. Suzanne Hungerford of communication disorders and sciences, Dr. Timothy Mihuc of earth and environmental

science, Dr. Jean Ouedraogo of foreign languages and literature, Dr. Shakuntala Rao of communication, Dr. James Rice of history, and Dr. Jose Torres-Padilla of English and Latin American studies.

Those promoted from assistant professor to associate professor were Dr. Jon Chatlos of English, Dr. Marie Cusson of foreign languages and lit-

erature, Dr. Salvador Gutierrez of computer science, Dr. Chuo-Hsuan (Jason) Lee of accounting, Dr. Karyn Neuhauser of economics and finance, Dr. Brian Neureuther of management and international business, David Powell of art, Dr. Sandra Rezac of sociology and criminal justice, Dr. Denise Simard '90 of special education and Dr. David Stone of counselor education. □



FOCUS

Parking Changes Announced

Campus construction has lead to the temporary loss of some parking.

To reduce inconvenience, several changes will be in effect this semester.

The remaining spaces behind Champlain Valley and Banks halls will be reserved for faculty, staff and off-campus students, and additional faculty spaces will be created in front of Yokum Hall.

The lots around Hudson will be open to faculty until construction on the new science building begins.

In September, some spaces behind Redcay will be off-line. The Court Street entrance will become two-way.

Faculty, staff and off-campus students will be able to park behind Sibley, near George Angell Drive, and take a shuttle around campus weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

In late fall, the area where the old hospital now sits will become a parking lot with 23 new parking spaces. Other lot designations will return to normal.

For more information, contact Walter Hallett at University Police at 518-564-2022 or visit www.plattsburgh.edu/studentlife/f08parking.php. □

Arnold Amell to Chair College Council

Governor David Paterson has selected Arnold Amell '53 to chair the College Council at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

Amell will fill the position that was vacated when former chair Donald Garrant '57 G'59 stepped down earlier this summer.

"We are pleased to have Arnie appointed to chair the College Council," said SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettling. "He has played leadership roles on campus as a steadfast member of the board since 1989 and a member of our alumni board of directors even before that. He has also represented the council well on several important search committees in recent years. With Arnie in place, we know the council is in good hands."

For Amell, the role of College Council chair is not entirely new. He served as the interim chairperson for 10 months in 2004, after Robert Garrow '52 left the position and before Garrant was appointed to it. Amell said he would like to continue in the footsteps of these two leaders.

"I'm very excited and pleased to be appointed," said Amell. "What I hope to do is to continue the leadership qualities that were exemplified by both of our most recent past chairs, Robert Garrow and Don Garrant."

Amell already has thoughts about the direction he wants the council to take.

"I hope to support the college administration in every way that I can as chairperson and that we can as a council. I would like to advocate for the entire council to support the capital campaign," he said. "I'd like also to improve the attendance of council members at council meetings and other college events."

Amell, who attends nearly every commencement at the college, said he would like to see other members do likewise.

"I would like to encourage more council members to attend commencement exercises both in

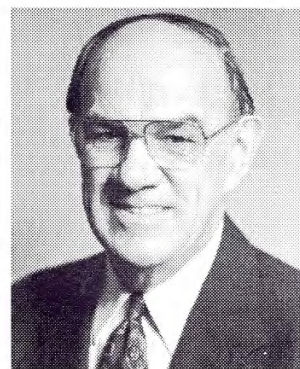
December and May," said Amell. "We are representative of our various communities on the College Council, and I think we should show our representation at commencement exercises."

"I'd like the council to provide support to the admissions staff by encouraging the outstanding students we know to attend Plattsburgh," he said. "And I want to continue to have council members act as liaisons between the council and the various schools and divisions at the college."

Amell has devoted much time and service to his alma mater. In addition to serving on the council, he was a member of the college's Alumni Association Board of Directors for 37 years and has served on several search committees for the college. His service earned him the college's Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

Amell has also served at the state level, as a member and two-time president of the Association of Council Members and College Trustees, where he worked to increase communication with other members.

Amell has a reputation as a distinguished educator in the Capital District. He has served as director of guidance and principal at the former Linton High School in Schenectady, N.Y. He was also the assistant superintendent for personnel in the Schenectady School District, a position from which he has retired. In 2005-2006 he worked part time as interim assistant superintendent for personnel in the Troy City School District. □



Arnold Amell '53

A Strong, Diverse Freshmen Class Arrives on Campus

The freshmen, now making their home on campus, are academically strong and rich in ethnic diversity.

"In terms of academics, this class compares favorably to those in previous years," said Richard Higgins '76, associate vice president for enrollment management.

This is, in part, because SUNY Plattsburgh has once again exceeded its enrollment goals. For the second year in a row, the college had so many applicants that it had to turn away more than half. This year's acceptance rate was 49.3 percent.

When it comes to diversity, 16.2 percent of the incoming freshmen

come from minority backgrounds. That number has been steadily climbing in recent years.

The college's reach is wide-spread across the state. This year's freshmen hail from 53 out of the 62 counties in the state, with many students coming from Suffolk and Nassau counties on Long Island, as well as Clinton, Albany and Saratoga counties.

The number of out-of-state freshmen has also risen slightly, to nearly 11 percent. Six percent come from states like Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, while more than four percent hail from other countries,



including Japan, China, Canada, Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea. □

>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



Ken Baldwin, assistant professor and coordinator for the Fitness and Wellness Leadership major, will be presenting a lecture, "Analyzing and Correcting Posture and Body Alignment for the Prevention of Older Adults from Falling," this fall at the International Federation on Aging's 9th Global Conference in Montréal. He will also present "Leadership and Training Tools for Professionals Teaching Older Adult Exercise," at the American Society on Aging's Conference in Philadelphia, Pa. Additionally, Baldwin will be presenting a lecture, "Become an Expert in Teaching Resistance Training Exercises," in October at the Club Industry Conference in Chicago, Ill.



Librarian **Patricia Bentley** is the only delegate from Clinton County to attend this year's Democratic National Convention. To learn more, visit her blog at pattyatdnc.blogspot.com.

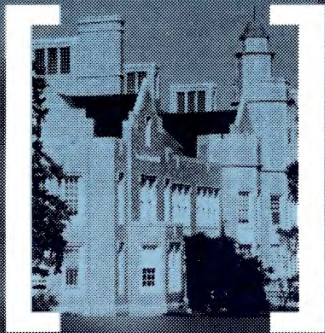


Dr. Hiroshi Itoh, professor of political science and Asian studies, just had a book he edited published by the Edwin Mellen Press. "The Impact of Globalization on Japan's Public Policy" provides examinations of Japan's public policy responses to globalization. It looks at the dichotomy between practices that asymmetrically benefit Japan and the rhetoric used to justify initiatives that may or may not contribute to global peace and prosperity. "(The author), a distinguished Japanese political scientist, addresses not only a significant topic but has also assembled a group of notable contributors who provided fascinating insights into Japanese policy making," said Professor Bogdan Mieczkowski from Columbia University in the book's foreword.



Dr. Mary Roden-Tice, professor of geology in the Center for Earth and Environmental Science, has been awarded a \$48,374 National Science Foundation Grant from the Tectonics Program in the Earth Sciences Division. The project, titled "RUI: Exhumation History and Potential Mesozoic Fault Reactivation of the St. Lawrence Rift System, Southern Québec," involves field and laboratory research in Québec in collaboration with Dr. Alain Tremblay of the Université du Québec à Montréal and includes the participation of SUNY Plattsburgh undergraduate geology majors. The award provides funding for two years.

To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, send information to news@plattsburgh.edu.



FOCUS

Early Detection Equals Retention

Dr. Jay Stein, the provost, and Bill Laundry, vice president for student affairs, are asking staff and faculty to help identify students who may be having difficulty.

They ask faculty and staff to look for signs that may include not showing up to class or exhibiting unusual behaviors.

"Our combined effort in first identifying and then reaching out to these students can make the difference between persistence in college and drop-

ping out," wrote the two in a memo to faculty and staff.

Those with concerns about students may contact Sharon Levine at 518-564-2280 or log on to Banner Web and click on Student Early Alert under the Faculty/Staff/Advisor menu.

"We are committed to providing the necessary follow-up (e.g. mentoring, referrals, etc.) with each student with whom we make contact," wrote Laundry and Stein. □

>> NOTEBOOK

- **Partners In Cross Cultural Learning Information Meeting,** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. Amnesty Room, Angell College Center. For information contact Michelle R. St. Onge, picl@plattsburgh.edu or 518-564-3270.
- **"Gender, Culture and Politics in Spain and the Basque Country: Women's Studies Study Abroad Report Back,"** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 12:15-1:30 p.m. Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. For more information, contact Dr. Simona Sharoni, 518-564-3026, sshar001@plattsburgh.edu.
- **"Making Your Mark: Leadership Principles to Meet the Challenge,"** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m. Warren Ballrooms, Angell College Center. Ed Gerety will address the issues that students face in college. For more information, contact Allison Swick-Duttine, allison.swick@plattsburgh.edu, 518-564-4825.
- **Comedian Shawn Cornelius,** Tuesday, Sept. 9, 8 p.m. Warren Ballrooms, Angell College Center. For information contact the Center for Student Involvement at 518-564-4830.
- **Holistic Treatment of Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders,** Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m. Krinovitz Recital Hall in Hawkins Hall. Judith Bluestone, founder of the Holistic Approach to NeuroDevelopment and Learning Efficiency Institute, will discuss evaluation and non-drug treatment of disorders like autism, attention deficit disorder, dyslexia and Tourette's syndrome.
- **Coffee House,** Wednesday, Sept. 10, 9 p.m. Sundowner, Angell College Center. For more information, contact the Center for Student Involvement at 518-564-4830.
- **"Love Letters"** written by A.R. Gurney, Friday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. Hartman Theatre, Myers Fine Arts Building. Directed by Derrick A. Hopkins '00 and presented by Dr. Timothy Palkovic with guest actor Leslie (Hearn) Simons. Tickets are \$5 for general admission; \$4 for seniors citizens, students and SUNY Plattsburgh faculty and staff; and \$2 for SUNY Plattsburgh students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at the Angell College Center desk. For information, contact 518-564-2284 or spfaf001@plattsburgh.edu.

Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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Assistant Editor: Gerianne Wright

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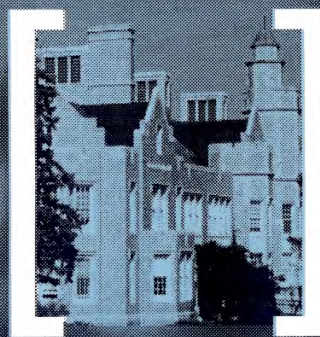
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FOCUS

EDITED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH FOR THE



SEPT. 12, 2008

Updates to Come on Construction

Scenes from campus right now might remind some of scenes from the Big Dig. Workers are still burying high temperature hot water pipes that will heat the entire campus. The parking lot around the old hospital is fenced off to provide space for its demolition. Some sidewalks are closed. Portions of parking lots are unavailable, and the automated teller by Hawkins Hall is completely inaccessible.

Fortunately, the campus will not always be in this state. Shortly, some of the holes around campus will disappear and the parking behind Redcay will return to normal. Once the demolition of the old hospital is completed, late this fall, the campus will gain 23 new parking spaces and all of the lots will return to normal.

This is not to say that we will have seen the last of construction on campus, however. Work will soon begin on renovating Hudson Hall.

The \$38 million project will take four years and result in improved

facilities, but it will also result in some temporary chaos along Broad Street.

"It will have everybody a little off kilter," said Linda Sichel, the capital program manager at the college.

In addition, numerous other projects will be underway, including ones that won't be noticed by the public, as they deal mostly with infrastructure.

However, when the dust settles, the campus will have gained new and better facilities, enhanced safety, greater energy efficiency and more.

In the meantime, regular updates are planned. Information on the parking situation and on the shuttle designed to help reduce inconvenience is already available online at www.plattsburgh.edu/studentlife/parkingshuttle.php.

Other information on construction will be circulated via the my.plattsburgh.edu portal and via listings in the Daily Digest. □

College Conducts Marketing Research Project



Introspection, stepping out of your shoes to see how you look to others, is as important for colleges as it is for individuals.

As a result, SUNY Plattsburgh has hired Stamats, a com-

pany that specializes in higher-education marketing, to help us see what others think we are doing right and what could be done better.

Many people have already helped with this process. Stamats met with approximately 120 students and 100 faculty and staff members in focus groups earlier this month and asked them questions, gathering qualitative data.

The company also has been culling through previous surveys and will gather quantitative data through Web and phone surveys.

When the process is done, we will better understand our marketing challenges and will develop plans to better recruit students and enhance our public image.

Stay tuned. Results will be distributed in the near future. □



FOCUS



Learning Center Refurbished

The Claude J. Clark Learning Center is sporting a new look these days.

During the last academic year, the center was selected to receive money from the Academic Enrichment Fund, supported by gifts to the Plattsburgh Fund. This funding has allowed the center to purchase new tables, chairs and reception furniture as well as new worktables and a new computer for the front desk.

"We are very appreciative of the funding that allowed us to purchase the new equipment," said Karin Killough '90, Claude J. Clark Learning Center director. "Our updated facilities will help us better fulfill our mission. They will allow us to provide services to SUNY Plattsburgh students in a more comfortable and professional atmosphere."

Killough encourages everyone to stop by and take a look at the new furnishings and learn about what the center has to offer. □

Fire Safety Day to Feature Burning Residence Hall Room Simulation

September is Campus Fire Safety month, and SUNY Plattsburgh is celebrating it in a big way on Fire Safety Training Day, Thursday, Sept. 18. The day will provide attendees with the chance to witness a fire in a mock residence hall room and more.

The activities will begin at 10 a.m. when dense theatrical smoke will fill a hallway on the ground-floor of Kent Hall. Participants will have the chance to walk through the hallway in a practice evacuation. This activity will run throughout the day until 2 p.m.

A mock residence hall room will also be constructed between Kent and Macomb halls. It will come complete with a number of fire hazards. Attendees will be asked to spot the hazards.

At noon, President John Ettling will welcome Plattsburgh Mayor Donald Kasprzak and announce the college's intentions to provide the city \$20,000 a year to help fund fire protection services.

This presentation will take place next to the mock room. In the event of rain, it will be moved to the lobby of the Angell College Center.

Following the presentation, the mock room will be set on fire so individuals can witness the effects of a fire and how quickly it spreads. The Plattsburgh Fire Department will demonstrate its skills by extinguishing the fire.

Activities throughout the day may include demonstrations of a sprinkler system, fire extinguishers and more. In addition, an aerial ladder truck will be on display and a number of organizations will be distributing information on fire safety.

The day will end at 7 p.m. with a presentation in the Warren Ballrooms, in Angell College Center. At that time, representatives of the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control will speak about fire safety. Refreshments will be served.

Members of the campus and com-

munity are invited to attend, including property owners and local emergency responders.

"Planning for this day took a lot of collaboration," said Keith Tait '78, director of the Office of Environment, Health and Safety on campus.

"From the students, to the landlords, from college staff and faculty, to Plattsburgh fire fighters, from the University Police to the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, this is truly a joint effort."

Pi Alpha Nu, one of the fraternities on campus, also played an important role in getting the event off the ground. Members have been working on fire safety with the University Police, have helped promote the event and will host a table in the Angell College Center all week to help get out word about this event.

Some financial support for the program came through the grant-funded Drug Free Community Support Program. Written into this grant are plans for supporting enhanced enforcement and extra educational awareness activities.

"Drug and alcohol intoxication can play a role in both increasing the risk factors for fires and in impairing an individual's ability to get out of a burning building," said Assistant University Police Chief Jerry Lottie. "We are very pleased to be partnering with the Drug Free Community Support Program on this initiative."

Studies have shown a link between alcohol impairment and death from fire. Information like this will be distributed, through the "Underage Drinking Is Not a Minor Problem" and the "Work Hard, Play Smart" campaigns. Some of the day's activities may also feature the use of alcohol simulation goggles, thereby increasing attendees' awareness of the role substances may play in fire safety. □

Staff "Make Strides" Against Breast Cancer



Gina Doty '07 knows first-hand what a tragedy breast cancer can be. Her sister died from the disease about 11 years ago, at the age of 36. Since then, Doty has continued to donate time and money to breast cancer research.

This year, Doty has teamed up with Michelle Toth to support the

cause. The two have put around 25 hours into sewing a quilt to be raffled off as a part of the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" campaign through NYSUT and UUP.

Since 1993, \$230 million has been raised through "Making Strides" events across the country. Last year, the two unions raised more than \$1 million dollars for breast cancer awareness, treatment and research -- the largest donation by any organization in the state.

Doty and Toth matched fabric swatches to create a pleasing color scheme. They sewed them onto a background fabric that sports the words "Quilt for a Cure."

The quilt is just one of the prizes offered in the raffle. Baskets and a number of other items were also donated from various agencies. Doty will be selling tickets until Oct 13. The tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for six.

The money will go toward research, the nation's only 24-hour cancer hotline, free programs and services to improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families, and advocating for public policies that provide access to mammograms and treatment for all women, regardless of income. □

>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



Dr. Peter Conrad, professor and chair of biological sciences, was elected a SENCER Leadership Fellow by the National Leadership Board of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement. As a fellow, Conrad will continue to study the intersection of ethics and science. He will help to establish new courses and will support peers, helping them use the ethical challenges found in science to improve instruction and strengthen democracy.



Dr. Jean Ann Hunt (pictured), assistant professor of literacy education, guest edited the June 2008 issue of *Democracy and Education*, titled "A Pedagogy for Social Justice." In the same issue SUNY Plattsburgh colleagues, **Dr. Monica Ciobanu**, assistant professor of sociology, and **Dr. Caroline Knight**, assistant professor of literacy education, published articles titled "Teaching History and Building a Democratic Future: Reflections from Post-Communist Romania" and "Celebrating Immigrant Learners," respectively.

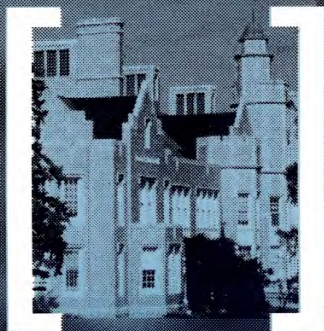


Richard Schaefer, assistant professor in the department of history, was awarded the Selma V. Forkosch prize by the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. The prize is awarded for the best article published in the journal during the calendar year. Schaefer's "Infallibility and Intentionality: Franz Brentano's Diagnosis of German Catholicism" appeared in July 2007 (volume 68, number 3). His article explores Franz Brentano's opposition to papal infallibility.



Mila C. Su, associate librarian, has published an article in *The Reference Librarian*, a journal for students and information professionals. Her article, "Beyond Circulation: The Evolution of Access Services and Its Relationship to Reference Librarianship," explores new professional opportunities created by changes in access services and evolving relationships among library functions. Su suggests ways for librarians to advance and to use the new environment to one's advantage.

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Proposals Needed for Conference

The Center for Teaching Excellence will host a "Discovering the Joy of Teaching" conference on April 4.

Faculty are encouraged to submit proposals for interactive workshops and presentations on learning and teaching. Poster sessions, focussing on innovative teaching practices or reporting on experimentation with

teaching techniques may also be submitted.

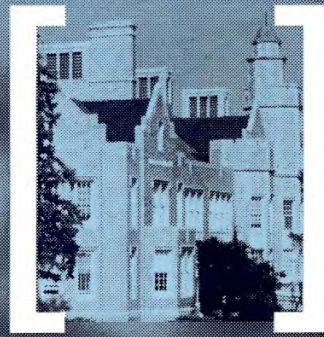
Proposals should be no more than 500 words, 75 of which should describe the session for the conference program. All need to be submitted by Nov 1, via the Internet. Look for an e-mail from Dr. Rebecca Kasper, telling how to submit the proposals. □

>> NOTEBOOK

- **Luke Cyphers on Covering the Olympics**, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, Krinovitz Hall.
- **Ethical Ideals in Journalism: Civic Uplift or the Pursuit of Truth**, 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, Alumni Conference Room. For information, call 518-564-4291.
- **Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month Open Community Forum**, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, Alumni Conference Room. For more information, call 518-564-3366.
- **"What's Your Point Honey?"** 6 - 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, Krinovitz Recital Hall. Award-winning film followed by discussion on gender, race and elections.
- **Women's Studies Department Fall Reception**, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, Alumni Conference Room.
- **Poetry Reading by Gerry LaFemina**, 8 p.m., Monday, Sept. 22, Commons, Champlain Valley Hall.
- **"Transitions: Making the Leap from College to Career,"** Mondays, starting Sept. 22, 4:30 p.m. Meeting Room 1, Angell College Center. Seniors and graduate students discuss and explore one of life's significant transitions in this eight-week workshop/support group. Group will not meet on Columbus Day. Call 518-564-3086 or 518-564-2071 for information and to register.
- **Pendragon Theatre's "Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter,"** 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, Hartman Theatre. \$10, general admission; \$8, senior citizens, students and SUNY Plattsburgh faculty and staff; and \$2, SUNY Plattsburgh students. Tickets at the door only. For information, contact 518-564-2284.
- **National Hazing Prevention Week Candlelight Vigil**, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, outside of Hood Hall.
- **The 5th Annual Peace and Social Justice Conference: "Instruments of Peace: The Role of Gender and Race in Conflict Transformation,"** 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25. For information, call 518-564-3026.
- **Visual Artists Series: Eliza Garrison, Art Historian**. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, Cardinal Lounge.
- **"Turning Away from Hate,"** 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, Warren Ballrooms. Former neo-Nazi white supremacist speaks about his turning away from hate and becoming a teacher of tolerance. For information contact 518-564-4825.
- **Senior Recital: Eric Reeves, Percussion**, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, Krinovitz Recital Hall. Free. For more information, contact 518-564-2284.

FOCUS

PUBLISHED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH



Teacher Education Programs to Be Reviewed for Accreditation This Spring

Next summer, SUNY Plattsburgh should learn whether or not its new and improved teacher education programs will be accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. In the meantime, representatives from TEAC will visit the college this spring for an on-site inspection.

The college was a charter member of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education in the 1950s and maintained its accreditation with NCATE through the 1970s until budget cuts led the college to stop applying for the endorsement.

Standards changed, however, and the state started to require accreditation, so the college became one of the first to apply to NCATE for the endorsement under new procedures for the process.

Unfortunately, SUNY Plattsburgh was unsuccessful in the bid. However, the college's teacher education programs were and are still accepted by the state, and its students still do well on state teaching tests and receive licensure.

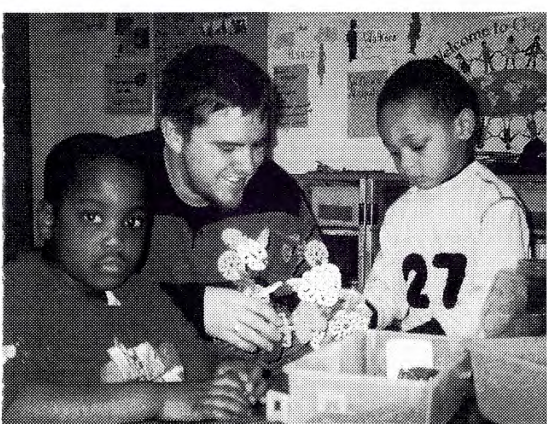
"The nice thing about accreditation is that you get an outsider's view," said Dr. David Hill, dean of Education, Health, and Human Services. "We took the information and used it to make some pretty dramatic improvements."

At the time of the application to NCATE, the department had a framework to guide its programs, but it was not what it could be, according to Hill.

"That had been a major NCATE finding -- that our framework wasn't very strong and wasn't being used like it should be," said Hill.

As a result, education faculty redesigned the entire program, from start to finish, beginning with the framework, moving into the content and then onto the delivery of that content.

The next several issues of Focus will feature stories on those changes, informing the college community of the innovations in the teacher education program. □



Alzheimer's Center Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Founded in 1988 by Dr. Taher Zandi, the center will celebrate the occasion on Oct. 3, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 100 of Sibley Hall. The center provides services to individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's in Clinton, Franklin, and Essex counties.

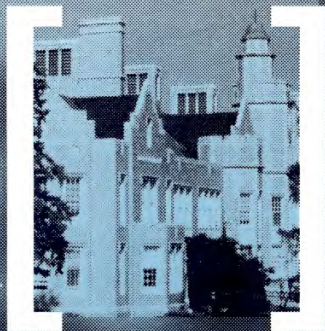
This celebration will continue with the annual Alzheimer's walk. Money raised at the walk stays within the community, funding programs and services.

This year the walk will be held Oct. 25, 12:30 p.m. at the Olympic Oval in Lake Placid, as well as Oct. 26, 1 p.m. at the Plattsburgh State Field House.



To find out more, visit alzwalk.org.

Melissa Golio '08



FOCUS

Ballrooms Unavailable At End of Year

The Warren Ballrooms will be unavailable for events after spring break until the start of fall semester 2009, due to Sundowner renovations. The renovations mean that meal services must be moved to the ballrooms for the last eight weeks of the academic year.

The ballrooms will then remain closed through the summer because of upgrades to air handling systems.

To help meet the demand for event space, the Flynt Commons will temporarily become a multipurpose room. This space, however, cannot be closed off and, as a result, cannot accommodate every kind of event.

When not in use for events, the commons will remain a student lounge with folding tables and chairs.

Memorial Hall will also be offline for a week in order to accommodate the spring open house for Admissions.

When scheduling events, please plan ahead and keep space limitations in mind. If possible, avoid scheduling large-scale events during this timeframe. For assistance, contact the Conference and Events Staff at College Auxiliary Services. □

James Armstrong Honored at Portrait Unveiling Ceremony

Dr. James Armstrong's portrait was unveiled in a ceremony at SUNY Plattsburgh's Feinberg Library on Sept. 26. After the ceremony, his portrait joined those of the SUNY Plattsburgh faculty who have earned distinguished professorships.

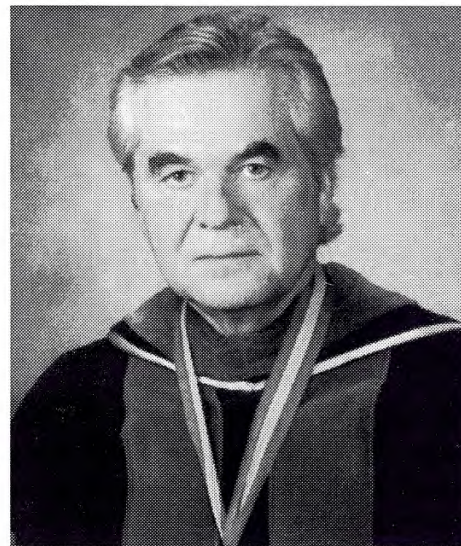
Armstrong is one of only nine faculty members throughout the entire SUNY system to receive promotion to distinguished teaching professor this year. Presented annually by SUNY, the honor is bestowed upon faculty who demonstrate consistent superior mastery of teaching; outstanding service to students and commitment to their ongoing intellectual growth, scholarship and professional growth; and adherence to rigorous academic standards and requirements.

"Jim has done SUNY Plattsburgh proud," said President John Ettling. "On our campus, this recognition is especially prized, as it reflects our strong commitment to quality teaching and an environment that fosters close student-faculty collaboration."

Armstrong joined the faculty at SUNY Plattsburgh in 1981 as an assistant professor of anthropology and was later promoted to associate professor in 1987 and to full professor in 1997. A recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1999, he currently serves as chair of the Department of Anthropology and as the associate director of the Redcay Honor's Program.

During his time at the college, he has taught a wide range of classes, receiving strong, positive ratings from students on the quality of his instruction. This could be, in part, because of his interest in pedagogy. He has written about and experimented with various pedagogical devices, such as learning communities, linked courses and cluster courses.

Armstrong is a steadfast scholar. He has co-edited three editions of a book and has published 12 refereed articles,



as well as a number of proceedings papers and book reviews. In addition, he has presented more than 50 papers at professional conferences and often speaks in the community and on campus, usually about his major areas of interest, the Israeli – Palestinian conflict.

Twenty-six of his students have given presentations at scholarly conferences, and about 100 have taken part in paid internships with Hope Community Resources in Alaska, working to deliver services to indigenous communities.

Armstrong has served the college in many other capacities. A six-time chair of the Faculty Senate's General Education Committee, he, at one time, served as both the chair of anthropology and of sociology and criminal justice. He has also served on several important search committees.

An active member of the larger community, he has served on both the board of directors of the Clinton County Mental Health Association and various Northern Adirondack Planned Parenthood committees.

Armstrong earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology from California State University, Long Beach, and his doctorate from the University of California, Riverside. □

>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



Dr. George Flynn, professor of mathematics and physics, donated an aircraft to the Aeronautics Institute Program at the Champlain Valley Technical Institute. His Piper Cherokee 140 is a small plane, the likes of which the program did not have and needed to have in order to meet regulations. Through his donation, Flynn played an important role in the program.



Dr. Alexis Levitin just had his translation of Astrid Cabral's "Cage" published by Host Publications this summer. This is his 25th translation to be published. For Cabral, who is one of the most eminent contemporary poets in Brazil, this is her first book to be published in America. The two are currently giving bilingual poetry readings. See Notebook on Page 4 for information on their SUNY Plattsburgh reading.



Dr. Connie Oxford, assistant professor of women's studies, has had two book chapters published in edited collections. The first is "Changing The Research Question: Lessons from Qualitative Research." It appeared in editors Louis DeSipio, Manuel Garcia y Griego, and Sherrie Kossoudji's "Researching Migration: Stories from the Field," published by Social Science Research Council Books. The second book chapter is "Acts of Resistance in Asylum Seekers' Persecution Narratives." It appeared in Editor Rachel Ida Buff's "Immigrant Rights in the Shadows of Citizenship," published by New York University Press.



Kristen Buck '07 (not pictured), a former Chancellor's Award winner from SUNY Plattsburgh;

Dr. Thomas Atkinson '01, lecturer in psychology at SUNY Plattsburgh who is also a post-doctoral researcher at Sloan-Kettering; and **Dr. Jeanne Ryan**, SUNY distinguished teaching professor of psychology and the executive director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Center, recently had two articles published in peer-reviewed journals. The articles came, in part, from Buck's research conducted through a Redcay Research Apprenticeship during her senior year at Plattsburgh. The first article was published in the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology and was titled "Evidence of Practice Effects in Variants of the Trail Making Test During Serial Assessment." The second article was titled "The Use of Variants of the Trail Making Tests in Serial Assessment: A Construct Validity Study" and was published in the Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment.



Dr. Edwin A. Romanowicz, associate professor of geology and hydrology, had his research on the effects of geology and hydrology on the Everglades ecosystem published this past spring as a chapter titled "Geologic Setting and Hydrology Gradients" in "The Everglades Experiments: Lessons for Ecosystem Restoration," edited by Dr. Curtis Richardson at Duke University and published by Springer Verlag. The research involved calibration with wetland scientists, environmental engineers and paleo-ecologists at Duke University. His results suggest that some of the ecological changes may, in part, be an effect of alterations to natural surface hydrology rather than nutrient runoff.

William Peters, a new assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice at SUNY Plattsburgh, has had two articles published since his arrival at the college. In August, his commentary "The State That Signed the Contract Felled a City -- One Voice at the Intersection of Public War and Private Profit" was published in Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict, and World Order. Then, in September, the International Bar Association's annual Academic and Professional Development Newsletter published an article that Peters co-authored with Ethan S. Burger, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. The article was titled "The Duty to Investigate Possible War Crimes: Has an Unfortunate Determination by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia Been Overtaken by Subsequent Developments in International Humanitarian Law?"

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FOCUS

Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

Editor: Michelle Ouellette

Assistant Editor: Gerianne Wright

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Institutional Advancement

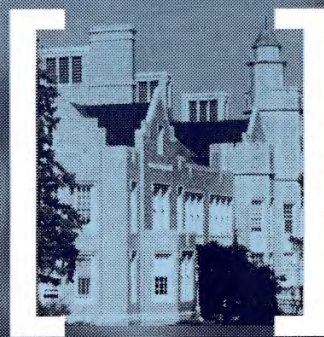
Office of Public Relations
 113 Hawkins Hall
 564-2090 • 564-2094 (fax)
news@plattsburgh.edu

>> NOTEBOOK

- **Comedian Eric Andre**, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m. Ballrooms, Angell College Center.
- **Bilingual Poetry Reading from "Cage,"** Wednesday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. Astrid Cabral, an eminent Brazilian poet, reads from a collection of Amazonian poetry. Professor Dr. Alexis Levitin translates. A slide show will be included.
- **Voter Education Fair**, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Amitié Plaza.
- **"Transforming Men: Sexism, Feminism and the Politics of Masculinity,"** Thursday, Oct. 2, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. Roundtable discussion with Dr. Brian Klocke, Dr. Mikel Imaz, Angel Acosta and James McGahan on the role of men in the struggle to end sexism. For information, call 518-564-3026.
- **CDPI Film Series: "Music Within,"** Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. Room 200, Yokum Hall.
- **Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Center 20th Anniversary Celebration**, Friday, Oct. 3, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Room 100, Sibley Hall. Refreshments served. Guests are invited to honor those touched by Alzheimer's disease by placing names, poems or photos on a paper square for the "Quilt of Colorful Memories." To R.S.V.P. call 518-564-3377.
- **Autism Spectrum Disorders: Introduction to the SCERTS Model**, Friday, Oct. 3, 8 - 4 p.m., Warren Ballrooms, Angell College Center. An overview of the Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support approach for treatment of children with autism spectrum disorders, it covers current perspectives in intervention and reviews the core developmental challenges. General registration is \$130 and \$35 for students taking nine credits or more. Registrations are due Sept. 26. To register, go online to www.plattsburghcas.com or call 518-564-3054.
- **Diversity Enlightenment Session**, Friday, Oct. 3, noon - 2 p.m. Room 200, Yokum.
- **Guitar Festival**, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 - 5. Dr. William Pfaff, director, with Michael Angelo Fratino, and guest artists Ted Mann and Dr. Whitman Brown. All events are free and open to the public. For information, call 518-564-2283 or e-mail spfaf001@plattsburgh.edu.
 - Classical Guitar Recital, Oct. 3, 4 p.m. Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall
 - Guitar Master Class: Composing and Improvising, Oct. 4, 11 a.m. Room 300, Myers Fine Arts Building
 - Guitar Festival Concert, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins.
- **Patty Did Denver (the Convention): a Commentary and Discussion**, Monday, Oct. 6, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Cardinal Lounge, Angell Center. Librarian Patty Bentley, delegate to the Democratic National Convention, will speak about the experience.
- **Visual Artist Series: Jean-Pierre Larocque**, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m., Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. The French Canadian ceramic artist Larocque discusses his material works.
- **Coffee House, featuring Ryan Hood**, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 9 p.m. Sundowner.
- **"Juggling Work and Family,"** Thursday, Oct. 9, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. Krinovitz Recital Hall in Hawkins Hall. Roundtable discussion with Provost Jay Stein, Dr. Wendy Gordon, Jackie Vogl and others. For more information, call 518-564-3026.
- **Writer Valerie Hemingway**, Friday, Oct. 10, 8 p.m., Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. Free. Ernest Hemingway took Valerie under his wing when she was a young journalist. He hired her and eventually discussed marriage with her. She declined and later married his youngest son, whom she met at his funeral. These experiences and more are in her memoir, "Running with the Bulls." Book signing to follow talk. For more information, call Kate Chilton at 518-564-3054.

FOCUS

EDITED BY SUNY PLATTSBURGH FOR THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY



Center for Health and Psychological Services Receives Accreditation



SUNY Plattsburgh's Center for Student Health and Psychological Services has become one of the few SUNY school programs to receive accreditation by the University and College Counseling Center's Board of Accreditation. Others include Buffalo State, New Paltz, Cortland and Stony Brook.

"We're the fifth college to become accredited, but we are the only merged health and psychological center," Center Director Dr. Kathleen Camelo said.

This certification comes after an on-site review of the center's procedures, protocols and services.

"In its review, the board was very complimentary of your experienced leadership; reputation and strong connection with the campus community; your highly skilled, professional and dedicated staff," said Dr. Theresa M. DiNuzzo, chair of the International Association of

Counseling Services Board of Accreditation.

According to Camelo, efforts toward IACS accreditation have been underway for some time now.

"It's been a work in progress over the last four years," said Camelo. "It really indicates a lot of hard work."

Although the program has received accreditation, the board recommended improvements, and the center plans to tackle these concerns head-on.

"We are going to be renovating the center to accommodate recommendations made by IACS for continued confidentiality purposes," said Camelo.

Camelo also noted that they will be enhancing psychological library resources, increasing resources for clinical research and expanding group counseling.

"I am very proud of our center's expertise and the teamwork that resulted in accreditation," she said. ☐

Tiffany Richards '10

Teacher Education Faculty Share Details of Innovations

The college's teacher education faculty have been spreading the word about the innovations in their revised programs and doing so to much acclaim.

Dr. Aline Bobys, Jean Mockry '75 G'78 CAS '87, Dr. Jean Ann Hunt, Dr. Denise Simard '90, and Dr. Doug Selwyn have taken their message on the road, presenting at events like the Technology, Reading and Learning Diversity

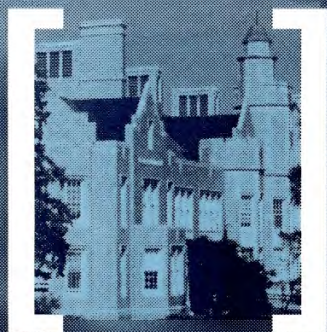
Conference in San Francisco and the East Region's Task Force on Quality Inclusive Schooling.

Their presentations have drawn much enthusiasm and have resulted in a new invitation from the Task Force on Quality Inclusive Schooling to speak to stakeholders all across New York.

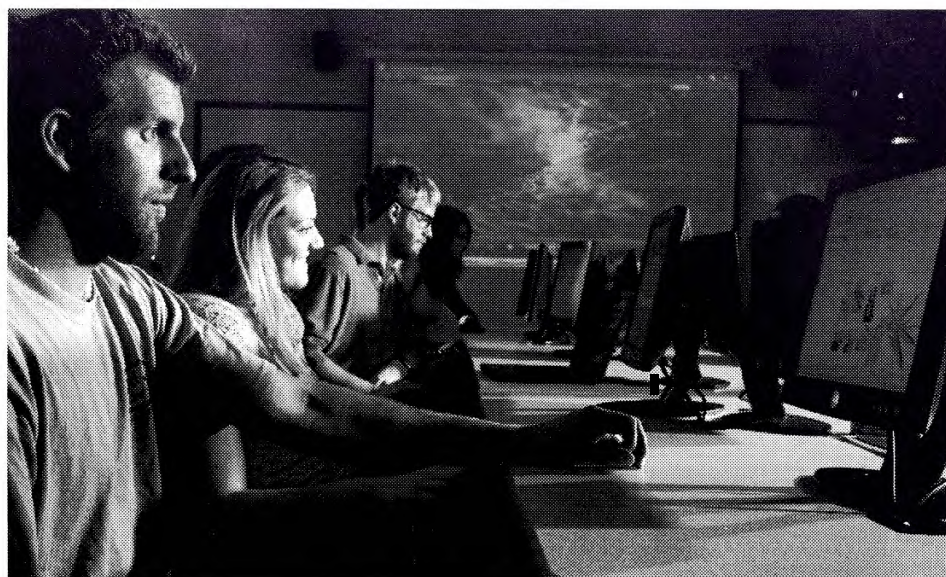
"You are exceptional on so many levels, but for me it was especially

encouraging to see adult educators collaborating to find common ground for the greater good. My only regret is that we didn't have more opportunity to talk," wrote Dr. Diana Straut '86 G'88, liaison for the Eastern Regional Task Force and adjunct at the College of St. Rose.

Future issues of Focus will feature more about the innovations in teacher education and why others are interested. ☐



FOCUS



Students Find, Turn in, Lost Cash

Junior Nassawa Gongasingh and Senior Golden Mokiwa were walking down the sidewalk by Macomb Hall one evening during opening weekend when the two saw something lying on the sidewalk in the dark. Gongasingh picked it up and discovered that they had found \$300.

As tempting as it was to keep the money, the two decided not to. They knew that \$300 could mean a lot to the person who had lost the money.

"To a student, \$300 is a lot of money," said Mokiwa.

They brought the cash to University Police where it was later identified and picked up by its rightful owner.

Gongasingh said he thinks many others would do likewise.

"I think many people are genuinely kind," he said. □

College Offers new Tech-Related Undergraduate Programs

SUNY Plattsburgh is now offering two new technology-related undergraduate programs: a bachelor's in information technology and one in management information systems.

The information technology program will prepare students for careers in organizations that need database network systems. According to the Information Technology Association of America, 92 percent of all IT workers work for non-IT companies. As a result, this program will prepare students for careers in such industries as services, distribution, manufacturing, project, financial, government, education and others.

Courses in the IT major will teach students to combine existing software and hardware technologies to solve particular problems, using the Internet as an essential component. Students will also develop communication skills as they work in teams -- an essential aspect of the IT profession. The program will also help them build systematic problem-solving skills while working on projects as part of a team.

Associate Professor William Teter said the program was created

because the demand for IT professionals and programs is on the rise.

"More and more, students want to have a college experience that relates to the kinds of jobs that are out in the market," said Teter.

He and his fellow professors teach students how to piece together existing computer-based technologies and make them work within a company's or organization's framework.

The second degree, the bachelor's in management information systems provides students with an understanding of fundamental management issues related to the use of information technology in organizations. It also provides them with a sound understanding of how to use the latest technology to solve business problems.

"Students will learn to incorporate systems already developed and modify them for a better business value," said Dr. Rohit Rampal, assistant professor of management and international business.

Rampal added that the revised computer science program gives students the option to experience classes from different programs to broaden their horizons. □

>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



A new novel, "The Wettest County in the World," by **Dr. Matt Bondurant**, assistant professor of English, is appearing in bookstores nationwide this month. Published by Scribner, the book is a fictional account of the "Great Moonshine Conspiracy" of 1935 in Franklin County, Va. Publishers Weekly gave it a "starred" review, saying, "It's a gripping, relentless tale, delivered in no-nonsense prose." The novel is due to be featured this fall in Esquire, Men's Journal, and in Rolling Stone's annual "Hot" issue and will be reviewed by New York Times Sunday book review. Foreign rights have already been sold to various countries, with more pending, and movie rights have been purchased by Columbia Pictures with director John Hillcoat attached to direct with Nick Cave as screenwriter. Bondurant will give a poetry reading on campus on Friday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall.



Dr. Fernando Iturburu, associate professor of foreign languages, had his book "Rumor de inventario" launched by the Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano in Guayaquil-Ecuador this August. The book is a personal anthology of 30 years of literary writing. Iturburu also taught a seminar titled "How to Write a Dissertation" at the Universidad Catolica de Guayaquil.



Dr. Tim Mihuc, associate professor of earth and environmental science and coordinator of the Lake Champlain Research Institute, spent his summer collecting and analyzing bugs and rocks from the site of the 1988 Yellowstone fire. Mihuc was part of a team, researching how, 20 years after the fire, the area is recovering. An article discussing his efforts appeared in the Sept. 14 edition of the Idaho State Journal.



Michigan State University Press has just published "Loyal but French: The Negotiation of Identity by French-Canadian Descendants in the United States" by **Dr. Mark P. Richard**, associate professor of history and Canadian studies. This book examines the process by which French Canadians became integrated into U.S. society from the mid-1800s to the present and offers a new conceptualization of the ways that immigrants become Americans.

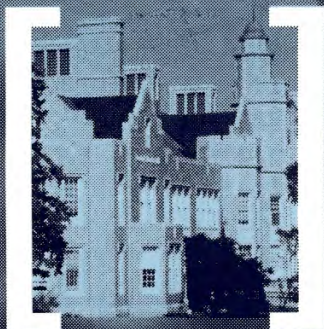


Dr. Richard Schnell, SUNY distinguished service professor of counselor education, and Adirondack photographers Shaun Heffernan, Gail Kemp '58 G'65 and Howard Jennings '69 G'85 had photographs in the International Haiga Exhibition at the North Country Cultural Center for the Arts as part of the International Haiku Poetry Festival and Conference. Schnell exhibited 20 photographs in haiga format, containing haiku poems. Several were written in collaboration with Japanese poet Takashi Ikari, Canadian poet Claudia Coutu Radmore and Irish poet John W. Sexton. The works will become part of a traveling exhibit, available for North Country schools, public parks and colleges in an effort to promote regional poetry and related forms.

The Auditory Research Laboratories received a three-year, \$1 million grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to conduct a study titled "A Statistical Learning Model For Predicting Noise-Induced Hearing Loss In Humans." This grant will involve collaborative research between members of the Auditory Research Laboratories (**Director Dr. Roger Hamernik, Dr. Bob Davis, Dr. Wei Qiu and Adam Bouchard '02**) with those from the University of Beijing in China. The purpose of this research is to better understand the effects of high-noise levels on hearing which may have significant implications for current federal noise-exposure guidelines.



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FOCUS

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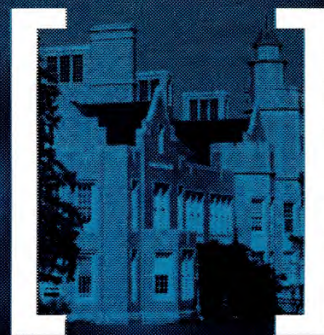
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113 Hawkins Hall
518-564-2090 • 518-564-2094 (fax)
news@plattsburgh.edu

>> NOTEBOOK

- **"Women's Embodiment and Political Resistance in Argentina,"** Thursday, Oct. 16, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m., Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. Lecture by Dr. Barbara Sutton of the University at Albany. For information call 518-564-3026.
- **Black Poetry Day,** Thursday, Oct. 16, 8 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall in Hawkins Hall. Free reading by award-winning poet Major Jackson.
- **Gallery Opening for the Student Association Exhibit "People and Politics,"** Friday, Oct. 17, 4 - 6 p.m., Burke Gallery, Myers Fine Arts Building.
- **PRISM Concert,** Friday, Oct. 17, 8 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. \$5 general admission. \$2 SUNY Plattsburgh students.
- **Coffee House,** Friday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m., Sundowner, Angell College Center. For information call 518-564-3200.
- **Homecoming 2008,** Oct. 17 - 19, visit www.plattsburgh.edu/alumni/ for a schedule.
- **"Teaching High School History: The Experiences of Four SUNY Plattsburgh Graduates in History,"** Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Alumni Conference Room, Angell College Center. For information call 518-564-5214.
- **Asian Film Series: "Edge of Heaven"** (Turkish, German and English language, 2007), Monday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m., Room 202 Yokum Hall. Winner of the best screenplay award in the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. Introduced by Dr. Mark Gultek. Free. For information call 518-564-2739.
- **Comedian Kelley MacFarland,** Monday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m., Warren Ballrooms, Angell College Center. For information call 518-564-3200.
- **Asian Film Series: "Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring"** (Korea 2003), Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. Room 202, Yokum Hall. Winner of multiple international awards Introduced by Dr. Jin Kim. Free. Call 518-564-2739 for more information.
- **Coffee House,** Wednesday, Oct. 22, 9 p.m., Sundowner, Angell College Center. For information call 518-564-3200.
- **Asian Film Series: "Frontiers of Fears and Dreams"** (Documentary from Palestinian refugee camps, 2001), Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. Room 202, Yokum Hall. Free. Introduced by Dr. Simona Sharoni. Call 518-564-2739 for more information.
- **Electronic Document Management System,** Thursday, Oct. 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Alumni Conference Room, College Center. Presented by Denis Meadows of N.Y. Archives and Government Services on Electronic Document Management System. Pre-registration required. Register at www.archives.nysed.gov. For information call 518-564-5011.
- **Adirondack Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Conference,** 7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. \$100 per person or \$50 with student ID. Registrations due Oct. 16. To register call 518-564-3054.
- **Asian Film Series: "Paint it Saffron"** (India 2006), 7:30 p.m. Room 202, Yokum Hall. Free. Introduced by Dr. Prem Gandhi. Call 518-564-2739 for more information.
- **Asian Film Series: "In the Name of God"** (Pakistan 2007), Friday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., Room 202, Yokum Hall. Introduced by Dr. Susan Mody. Call 518-564-2739 for information.
- **Friday Gallery Concert Series,** featuring students from the piano studio of Dr. Karen Becker and the voice studio of Timothy Morningstar, Friday, Oct. 24, 12:30 p.m., Myers Fine Arts Lobby. Free. For information call 518-564-2283.

FOCUS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY



OCT. 24 2008



'Buzz' Surrounds Launch of Bright with Promise Campaign

Buzz. Confidence. Pride. Momentum.

These words were proclaimed during the public launch of the college's Bright with Promise Campaign, held Friday, Oct. 17, in the Angell College Center.

Surrounded by the leadership of the college, including the College Council, the Alumni Association and the College Foundation, President John Ettling rattled off the indicators of the momentum felt across campus.

Ettling noted that applications were up 34 percent over the past five years, the college's selectivity has increased, and the college has earned accolades from Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine and U.S. News & World Report.

The Bright with Promise Campaign has a goal to raise \$15 million by June 30, 2011. Most of these funds will be dedicated to funding student scholarships to ensure that a SUNY Plattsburgh education remains affordable well into the future. As of Sept. 30, gifts and pledges to the campaign surpassed the \$9.4 million mark.

Alongside Kathy MaGaw '72, fellow campaign co-chair, Dr. Celine Paquette '60 spoke of her excitement in helping lead the overall effort.

"It is with great pride and pleasure that I serve as co-chair for the Bright with Promise Campaign," Paquette said.

Recounting her own experience as a student, Paquette said, "Many aspects of the college have changed over the years, but the one thing that remains constant is the high quality of the faculty and staff."

Paquette noted that since the launch of the campaign's "quiet phase," more than 12,000 donors have made a gift; of those, more than 3,500 were first-time donors to SUNY Plattsburgh.

"Bear in mind that this campaign is not just about major gifts, it's about participation," Paquette said. "In fact, 98 percent of all of the gifts received so far have been for \$1,000 or less. Our success in this campaign will ensure that we fulfill our promise to students." □

Student Wins Award from Botanical Society of America

Senior Jennifer Rushford won a Young Botanist Award from the Botanical Society of America this summer, putting her in the company of students from colleges like Cornell and the University of California at Berkeley.

The award was given at the Botany 2008 conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, where Rushford was joined by Megan Lebeau, a senior in biology;

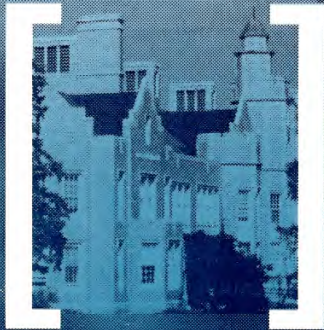
Steve Langdon '93, a senior in ecology; and Dr. Christopher Martine, assistant professor of biology. Lebeau, Langdon and Martine each presented research there.

Rushford won the award, in part, for her work in helping to found the college's student chapter of the Botanical Society of America. It was the first student chapter in the more than 100-

year history of the society.

Rushford and other students have also piloted a college community garden. Future crops will be sold on campus and donated to charity. □





FOCUS

SEFA Provides Chance to Give

Each year faculty and staff at SUNY Plattsburgh take part in the **State Employees Federated Appeal**, making donations to better their communities. This year's campaign is led by Peter Luguri '73 G'79, the director of first year programs, along with Secretary Cherice Granger '06 and Staff Associate Carol Bleaux '96.

"SEFA is a wonderful opportunity for those who are working at SUNY Plattsburgh to give something back to assist those less fortunate," Luguri said.

Last year the campaign raised \$52,000. According to Luguri, this year's goal is \$52,500, a small but significant increase. Titled "Make Your Mark," the campaign will run until Dec 5.

"SUNY Plattsburgh has a history of being a good neighbor. I am proud to support the SEFA campaign and urge you to consider becoming part of this important college effort to help those in need," said John Ettling, SUNY Plattsburgh president.

To learn more about the campaign, visit the Web site, at <http://www.sefa.state.ny.us>, and to learn more about the effort on campus, contact Luguri at 518-564-2280.

Teacher Education Program Works to 'Mediate the Complexities'

Today's teachers must learn to **"mediate the complexities,"** according to Dr. David Hill, dean of education, health, and human services.

They need to be able to deal with rapid changes and the fact that the technology they use today may be obsolete in a few years. They need to know their content in depth, but they also need to know how to shift focus when that content becomes irrelevant. And they need to be able to adapt everything they do for the unique needs of the learners in their classrooms.

So, when it came to redesigning the curriculum, SUNY Plattsburgh teacher education faculty had to tackle those complexities head on and change their own teaching methods as well. In doing so, faculty went beyond what the accreditation agency required and looked at what they felt was the right thing to do for their programs, their students and their students' students.

After researching current best practices, faculty gathered in May of 2006 and generated a list of what they felt teachers need to know and to be able to do — both today and tomorrow. Then, they created a list of themes around which they could base all of their courses.

These themes included knowledge of content. The faculty felt that teachers need to be able to give a context for content, create learning environments and utilize technology. The themes also included knowledge of pedagogy because teachers must be

able to use assessment effectively, help students develop critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities and use recursive learning through which a knowledge base can be formed and progressively built upon. They also need to have professional skills, including an ability to collaborate with others, to model learning for their students and to honor

multiculturalism and diversity.

The themes allow the faculty to get a handle on what they need to do, while at the same time providing flexibility so that the program can remain dynamic. This ability to be flexible is essential. The faculty are asking future teachers to adapt to present and future needs of students. So SUNY Plattsburgh faculty must do likewise.

"We have to try our best to walk the

talk," said Dr. Robert Ackland, associate professor of literacy education. "You can't talk about the necessity to have a lot of classroom discussion and then use a lecture format."

As a result, teacher education faculty have had to restructure everything. Where they ask students to model learning, they themselves have to model learning. Where they tell students to collaborate, they themselves have to collaborate. Where they tell students to reach out to students of all backgrounds and abilities, they themselves must do so.

"We have to be innovators at the college level," said Dr. Heidi Schnackenberg, associate professor of education technology.

The next Focus will highlight some of these changes and how the faculty will be assessing the program's effectiveness. □

Teacher Education Unit Theme Titles

Knowledge of Content

- Theme 1: Content in Context.
- Theme 2: Learning Environments.
- Theme 3: Technology.

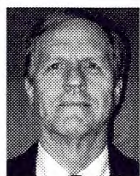
Knowledge of Pedagogy

- Theme 4: Assessment.
- Theme 5: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving.
- Theme 6: Recursive Learning.

Professional Skills

- Theme 7: Collaboration.
- Theme 8: Modeling.
- Theme 9: Multiculturalism and Diversity.

>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



Dr. James J. Coffey '67, a professor in the School of Business and Economics, has published an article titled, "Local Property Taxes — A Political Problem Masquerading as a Tax Problem." The article appeared in the October 2008 issue of the New York State Bar Association Journal.



Dr. Beth Dixon, associate professor of philosophy, recently had a book about ethics and animals published by Prometheus Books. "Animals, Emotion & Morality: Marking the Boundary" is an exploration of people's emotional kinship with animals, in which she invites the reader to consider what is philosophically controversial about the idea that animals have emotions. Ish Haji, a professor of philosophy at the University of Calgary, wrote the following about Dixon's work in this book: "Empirical researchers on animal emotion, as well as other interested scholars, owe a debt of gratitude to Dixon for, among other things, her careful analysis of morally laden emotions, her penetrating discussion of Darwin's principle of evolutionary continuity and its alleged bearing on animal emotion, and her insightful scrutiny of primate empathy."



Dr. Chris Martine, assistant professor of biological sciences, and **Steve Langdon '93**, a senior ecology major, (not pictured) recently presented their research at the University of Connecticut as part of the Connecticut Invasive Plants Working Group Symposium. Langdon, who was co-advised by Martine and Hilary Oles of the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, presented his undergraduate research project, titled "Eradication of the Aquatic Invasive European Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) from the Grasse River Wild Forest, Adirondack Park, N.Y." Martine's presentation, "Fifteen Woody Species with Potential for Invasiveness in New England," was a summary of a current study that will appear in the next issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *Rhodora*.

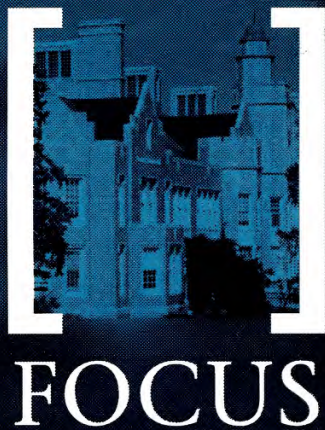


Assistant Professor of Music **Dr. William Pfaff** directed the two-day SUNY Plattsburgh Guitar Festival this October. The event consisted of two concerts and a public master class. Pfaff performed in the premiere of his work for three electric guitars and computer synthesized sounds, "Tracery." In addition, Pfaff's composition "The Color of Snow" (flute, marimba, cello) was selected for performance at the College Music Society's national meeting in Atlanta, Ga., in September. He also received the SUNY Plattsburgh Presidential Research Award in spring 2008. The award allowed him to organize the recording of four of his major piano compositions. Pianist and Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Karen Becker completed the project in July 2008. Furthermore, in June 2008, Pfaff received a New York State Strategic Opportunity Stipend. The award made it possible for him to travel to San Francisco to work in collaboration with jazz bassist Dr. Drew Waters and his group, the Atmos Trio. Pfaff presented three of his original compositions; they were rehearsed and recorded there.



Dr. Richard Schnell '71 G'72, SUNY distinguished service professor of counselor education, joined forces with **Rebecca Tillemans** and **Kim Fisher**, graduate mental health counseling students from SUNY Plattsburgh, to present a paper titled "The Commodification of Consciousness: Clinical and Ethical Challenges to Mental Health Counselors," at the North Atlantic Region Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES), on Sept. 20, in Portland, Maine. They addressed the theme of the conference, "Merging Mind and Molecule: Counselor Education Challenges in the New Millennium," identifying ethical challenges such as informed consent in child and adolescent use of antidepressant drugs, and the clinical challenges of "off label" prescribing and misinterpreting antidepressant drug withdrawal as a depression relapse.

To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, send information to news@plattsburgh.edu.



>> NOTEBOOK

- **"Ghost Hunter,"** Sunday, Oct. 26, 1 - 6 p.m. Warren Ballrooms. 518-564-3200.
- **Alzheimer's Walk,** Sunday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m. Field House. 518-564-3370.
- **Senior Recital: Eric Reeves,** percussion, Sunday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. Free. 518-564-2283.
- **Media and the 2008 Presidential Election** Conference, Monday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall.
- **Poetry Reading,** Monday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m., Commons, Champlain Valley Hall. Martin Tucker, editor of *Confrontation*, a literary magazine, will read. Free.
- **Spanish Fantasy/Horror Film Festival,** 7 - 9 p.m., Room 106, Hudson Hall. 518-564-3829.
 - Monday, Oct. 27, "Day of the Beast." • Thursday, Oct. 30 "Open Your Eyes."
 - Tuesday, Oct. 28, "Thesis." • Friday, Oct. 31, "Pan's Labyrinth."
 - Wednesday, Oct. 29, "The Orphanage."
- **Your Rights as a Tenant,** Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6 - 7:30 p.m., Yokum 200.
- **Visual Artist Series: Sculptor Coral Lambert,** Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., Alumni Conference Room, Angell College Center. Free.
- **"Women and Science,"** Thursday, Oct. 30, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m., Cardinal Lounge, Angell College Center. 518-564-3026.
- **Faculty Recital: Saxophone in Consort,** Sunday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. Daniel Gordon, saxophone; Michael Angelo Fratino, guitar; Robin Cameron-Phillips, flute; and Dr. Karen Becker, piano. Free. 518-564-2283.
- **SBE Internship and Career Fair,** Wednesday, Nov. 5, 1 - 4 p.m., Redcay. 518-564-4303.
- **Center for Diversity, Pluralism and Inclusion Film Series: "Lars and the Real Girl,"** Thursday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m., Room 200, Yokum Hall. Free.
- **"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940,"** Thursday, Nov. 6 through Saturday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m. Hartman Theatre, Myers Fine Arts. Tickets at door or Angell College Center desk. General admission, \$10; senior citizens and students, \$8; SUNY Plattsburgh faculty and staff, \$8; and SUNY Plattsburgh students, \$2. 518-564-2283.
- **College Chorale and Cardinal Singers,** Jo Ellen Miano, director, Friday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Free. 518-564-2283.
- **Clarinet Cross Border Project: Clarinet Choir,** Friday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Lobby, Myers Fine Arts Building. Free. 518-564-2283.
- **Clarinet Cross Border Project: Air Force Band of Liberty Clarinet Quartet Concert,** Saturday, Nov. 8, 3 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. 518-564-2283.
- **Kids Night Out,** Saturday, Nov. 8, 5 - 9 p.m. Memorial Hall. Children ages 6 - 13. \$10 per child. \$7 for each additional family member. 518-564-4147.
- **Empty Bowls,** Saturday, Nov. 8, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Clinton Dining Hall. \$10, general admission. \$7.50, students.
- **Fall Arts and Crafts Fair,** Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 - 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Field House. \$2. Children under 13, free. 518-564-4321.

Plattsburgh

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State Budget Deficits Impact College



On Nov. 4, President John Ettling issued a memo to the campus community to shed light on how the economic crisis and the resulting deficit faced by the state will impact the college.

Ettling's memo came on the heels of Gov. David Paterson's recent address about the budget deficit faced by the state. Last week, Paterson announced a special session of the Legislature that will convene on Nov. 17 to finalize a plan to cut the state budget by as much as \$2 billion.

While the exact impact on SUNY is unknown at this point, Ettling warned of trying times ahead.

"We must anticipate that our current state support will be dramatically reduced, and, in the years to come, will be diminished even more," he said in his memo to campus.

Ettling also cataloged the ways in which SUNY Plattsburgh has already addressed a 2008-09 budget that is 3.5 percent smaller than the previous year. The majority of the cut was

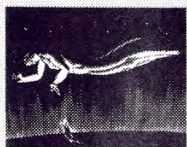
absorbed with little impact on the core mission of the institution, but, given the bleak forecast by the governor, Ettling and his cabinet are developing contingency plans for additional anticipated cuts to the current year's budget.

"We have begun to prepare for larger and permanent cuts in our state funding. At the same time, we are looking at ways to increase locally generated revenues. We do not yet know how deep the cuts will be or when we shall be told to make them," Ettling said.

Despite the challenges, the president expressed comfort in knowing that the college has an abundance of faculty and staff who believe whole-heartedly in the mission of the institution and who can help navigate the waters ahead.

Finally, he encouraged everyone to bring their ideas and suggestions forward and discouraged rumors based on misinformation. Transparency and clear communication about this difficult situation are a must. □

Kent Works to Go on Display at New York State Museum



Works from the Plattsburgh State Art Museum's Rockwell Kent Collection are hitting the road and

will be in a major exhibit at the New York State Museum in Albany.

The exhibit, running Nov. 21- May 17, titled "Rockwell Kent: This Is My Own" is part of the Bank of America

Great Art Series — a series that has featured works from museums like the Guggenheim. Half a million viewers are expected to see the show — in all likelihood, more than have ever viewed the works so far.

The show features sketches, paintings, ads, jewelry, book illustrations and more, in chronological order. These form a narrative of Kent's life.

This show is the first in the Great Art Series to cover an artist's life in such a way -- a format chosen because his life was so important to his work.

"Kent's work and his life cannot be separated," said Plattsburgh State Art Museum Director Ceil Esposito '77.

The New York State Museum is open daily from from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. □



FOCUS

Students Win Major Awards

SUNY Plattsburgh students continue to win awards at regional, state and national conferences. Two of the most recent winners are Elizabeth "Betty" Lavoie and Cristina Garcia.



Lavoie, a senior in biology, minoring in archaeology and chemistry, brought home top honors for her work researching ancient Maya

DNA, which she presented in a poster session at the National Association of Biology Teachers annual meeting this fall. This is the second year in a row that students working with Associate Professor Nancy Elwess and Lecturer Sandra Latourelle have been awarded top national honors.

Garcia, a graduate student in college and agency counseling, was part of a team that won the Esther Lloyd Jones Case Study Competition Award from the College Student Personnel Association of New York State. Team members were given a case study and had less than 24 hours to prepare their answer and give a formal presentation to judges, made up of professionals in the field. □



Restructured Teacher Education Programs Promote Collaboration

Faculty members in the teacher education program have been busy tearing down silos.

In the past, the program ran, as most programs have traditionally run, with individual teachers paying attention to their own course offerings and relying on others to do the same.

"For instance, a department's faculty members might not talk to anyone else when considering program changes or exploring instructional techniques," said Dr. David Hill, dean of education, health, and human services.

This has changed.

Faculty members worked throughout the summer to create a new organizational structure that allows them to share their expertise. Instead of being divided into departments, faculty in the teacher education unit are now organized into three separate program areas: the undergraduate bachelor's programs, the programs for graduates who have never been certified (M.S.T.) and those for graduates who are already certified (M.S.Ed.).

Because faculty members teach courses that fall under each of these broad categories, many belong to more than one program area.

The result is enhanced collaboration. Faculty can now see where their courses fit into the larger picture. They also have greater involvement when it comes to enrollment, the sequencing of courses, instructional programming, program revision and developing a voice that is not centered on one particular aspect of teacher education but is grounded in the themes mentioned in the last issue of Focus.

"We are encouraging communication between faculty as well as joint decision making and shared governance," said Dr. Robert Ackland, associate professor.

This sharing means more work for everyone, but it is worth the effort, according to Hill.

"Magic happens in our meetings," said Hill. "It takes more time, but we do it because it is the right thing to do and because it is rewarding." □

SUNY Plattsburgh Celebrates Faculty/Staff Scholarship on Nov. 20

Campus and community members alike are invited to join in a celebration honoring faculty and staff for their scholarly accomplishments made during the 2007-2008 academic year. The Celebration of Scholarship will take place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20 in the second floor lobby of Feinberg Library.

This year's celebration will feature three faculty members: Dr. Donald Adams, professor of earth and environmental science; Dr. Roger Hamernik, a professor in communication disorders and sciences and the director of the Auditory Research

Laboratory; and Dr. Jeanne Ryan, SUNY distinguished teaching professor of psychology and the executive director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Center. These individuals will be recognized for their exceptional scholarly accomplishments over the past several years.

Dr. Jay Stein, provost and vice president for academic affairs, will speak at the event. Books, articles and exhibition materials will be displayed.

The Celebration of Scholarship is open to everyone, free of charge. Refreshments will be served. □

Arredondo Selected for Fulbright Award

Dr. Isabel Arredondo, associate professor of foreign languages and literature, has received a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research on cinema at the University of Zulia in Venezuela this year.

Arredondo has already started this work and is finding it rewarding.

"I never expected my research in Venezuelan cinema to be such an enriching experience and the

Venezuelan people to be so welcoming," she said.

Arredondo is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program this year.

"I congratulate Dr. Arredondo on her Fulbright grant. A Fulbright is one of the most prestigious academic awards given to scholars. The award is testimony to not only Dr. Arredondo's achievement,

but to the outstanding faculty we have at Plattsburgh. I wish Dr. Arredondo great success with her important work in Venezuela," said Dr. Jay Stein, provost and vice president for academic affairs. □



>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



Tim Clukey '97, an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, recently authored an article for the November issue of *Sound on Sound* magazine. The article, "Reel to Real: the True Impact of Audio Archival Processing," explores a case study that provides insight into digital audio processing techniques and the potential impact of the archival process. *Sound on Sound* magazine is recognized internationally as the "Bible" for the hi-tech recording industry.

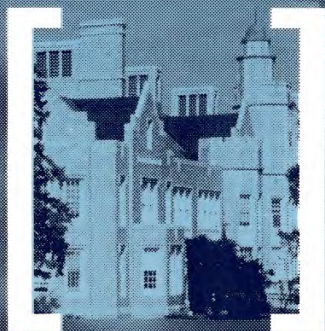


Michael Miranda, librarian and academic coordinator for the sport and wellness program, went on sabbatical last year and took part in a Research Fellowship at the National Collegiate Athletic Association in Indianapolis. During that year, he presented two papers on the academic impact of participation in intercollegiate athletics. One was at the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representatives Fall Meeting and Symposium and focused on Division III student-athletes. The second was at the NCAA National Convention and was co-authored with Brianna Scott of the NCAA. It included data on both Division III and Division I student-athletes. Building on that research, Miranda, Scott and Tom Paskus, principle research scientist for the NCAA, worked with other NCAA staff to prepare an article, titled "Collegiate Student-athlete Academic Performance In- and Out-of-Season: A Longitudinal and Cross Divisional Examination," that will be published in the January issue of the *Journal of Intercollegiate Sport*. Miranda also filmed a video on the role of the faculty athletic representative, which is now included in the materials made available to NCAA membership through the organization's Web site. In addition, Miranda has been named president-elect of the Faculty Athletic Representative Association. He will take office on Nov. 16 and will represent all three NCAA divisions on issues related to the academic integrity of intercollegiate athletics and the well-being of the student-athlete.



Dr. Jonathan R. Slater, an associate professor in the Department of Communications Studies, led more than 100 public relations students from around the country in a master class on "Ethics in Public Relations" at the annual Public Relations Student Society of America conference in Detroit this October. Slater was joined by Professor Deborah Silverman of Buffalo State College, Professor Ginni Jurkowski of SUNY Geneseo and public relations practitioner John Bailey, principal in the communication firm of Bailey and Associates Inc. The PRSSA conference was held in tandem with the Public Relations Society of America's international conference, at which Slater presented a scholar-to-scholar session on "Reflection as an Assessment Tool in Public Relations Service Learning." This session was presented in collaboration with Professor Carolyn White Bartoo of Widener University. The session was held as part of the PRSA's Educators Academy showcase of current faculty research.

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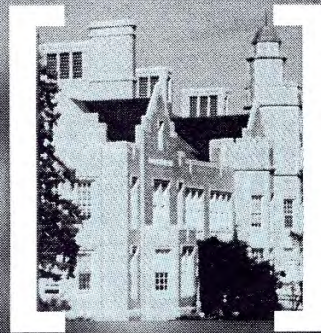
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- Clarinet Cross Border Project: Clarinet Choir, Friday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Lobby, Myers Fine Arts Building.
- The Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair, Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Field House. 518-564-4321.
- Clarinet Cross Border Project: Air Force Band of Liberty Clarinet Quartet Concert, Saturday, Nov. 8, 3 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. 518-564-2283.
- Kids Night Out, Saturday, Nov. 8, 5 - 9 p.m. Memorial Hall. 518-564-4147.
- Empty Bowls Food Shelf Fundraiser, Saturday, Nov. 8, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Clinton Dining Hall. 518-562-1086.
- Army ROTC Veterans Day Open House, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Room 309 C, Sibley Hall. 518-564-2769.
- Chamber Ensembles Concert, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Free. 518-564-2283.
- Lecture and Performance by Asteria, Thursday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. Free. 518-564-2283.
- Visual Artist Series: Bonnie Christensen, Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m., Alumni Conference Room, Angell College Center.
- Celiac Disease: A Hidden Epidemic, Thursday, Nov. 13, 5:45 p.m. registration, 6 p.m. presentation, Yokum Hall, Room 200. Sign up required. Free. 518-562-7320.
- Winter Jazz Concert, Friday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Free. 518-564-2283.
- Up 'Til Dawn benefit for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Warren Ballrooms, Angell College Center. 518-564-4285.
- "Of Spies and Spokesmen: My Life as a Cold War Correspondent," a talk by Nicholas Daniloff, Monday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. 518-564-2422.
- "How to Maintain Mental Health as We Age," by Dr. Taher Zandi, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 9:15 a.m., Pine Harbour, Plattsburgh.. Register by Nov 10. 518-564-3371.
- Film Screening of "Baraka" and "wrap session" following film, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m., Room 200, Yokum Hall. Free. 518-564-3259.
- Night of Nations, Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Ballrooms, Angell College Center.
- Symphonic Band, Thursday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. 518-564-2283.
- "The Wettest County in the World," reading and book signing by Matthew Bondurant. Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Krinowitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. 518-561-1618.
- Karen Becker and Friends, Saturday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Dr. Karen Becker, piano. Guest Janet Harriman, harp. 518-564-2283.

Events Calendar: www.plattsburgh.edu/events

FOCUS

PUBLISHED BY SUNY PLATTSB



NOV. 21, 2008

University Center Tuition Comparison Annual Tuition and Mandatory Fees

Illinois (Urbana-Champaign):	\$12,240
New Jersey (Rutgers):	\$11,083
Michigan (Ann Arbor):	\$11,038
Massachusetts (Amherst):	\$10,232
Texas (Austin):	\$8,615
Maryland (College Park):	\$7,969
California (Berkeley):	\$7,655
Wisconsin (Madison):	\$7,568
Georgia (Athens):	\$6,030
SUNY (Average):	\$5,888
Florida (Gainesville):	\$3,022

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, the SUNY Board of Trustees approved a Rational Tuition Plan. The board also amended the current tuition policy and adopted a tuition increase for in-state undergraduate students at two Higher Education Price Index units. The proposed total increase would be \$310 in-state, effective in the spring 2009 semester. This would be an increase of \$620, annually, starting in the fall of 2009. The final annual tuition rate at that point would be \$4,970 for in state students. The years following would be based on the HEPI index.

"SUNY's rational tuition plan will help students and their families better plan for future college costs and provide them and the campuses the ability to invest in academic quality initiatives, such as attracting more full-time faculty," said Board Chairman Carl T. Hayden.

In response to the decision, Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement Brendan Kinney issued a statement, which read in part:

"SUNY Plattsburgh supports the rational tuition plan passed Tuesday by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

"The proposed increase is needed so the college can continue to provide students with a top-quality education. Despite it, SUNY Plattsburgh remains a highly affordable option for students, especially compared to the cost of tuition at independent and private colleges.

"Evidence of the college's affordability can be seen in the fact that, for the second year in a row, SUNY Plattsburgh has been recognized by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine as one of the top 100 values in public higher education.

"The college is well positioned to deal with the crisis. Our goal is to minimize the impact of additional cuts on the fulfillment of our core mission." □

Ways to Help During Tight Financial Times

The budget debate began in earnest last week in Albany. At press time, there are no indications that an agreement over a deficit reduction plan is within sight. However, we expect further cuts could be announced in the coming weeks.

In anticipation of difficult times ahead, there are proactive things that we can do as a community to help reduce our energy costs and help the environment:

- Take the stairs instead of using elevators.
- Conserve paper and supplies.
- Reuse paper.
- Turn off lights and computers when not in use.
- Set your computer to "hibernate" after a period of inactivity.
- Unplug phone and battery chargers when they are not needed.

- Turn off heaters, turn down thermostats, turn off unneeded machinery, and close the blinds before leaving at the end of the work day.

Such simple actions by faculty, staff and students can help to reduce expenses while leading to a healthier, greener way of life on our campus. □



FOCUS

Global Conference to Come to the College

A truly global conference is set to take place on campus in May. The Global Supply Chain Management Conference will target supply chain management executives and senior managers within the United States and abroad.

The conference will help expose them to current trends, analyses and state-of-the-art solutions that will benefit their enterprises. It will feature internationally recognized speakers discussing green, sustainable supply chains; transportation security; cross-border compliance; regulatory issues; best practices; and the future of supply chain management.

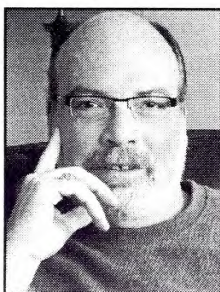
Speakers will include a former deputy commissioner of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an executive director from the Department of Homeland Security, the president and CEO of the Port of Montreal and more.

The conference is sponsored by the college, the Plattsburgh – North Country Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Labor. For more information contact Dr. Brian Neureuther at 518-564-4197 or lgscmconference@plattsburgh.edu.

Institute Reshapes Courses, Fosters Interdisciplinary Thinking

The Institute of Ethics at SUNY Plattsburgh has been helping to reshape and improve courses through the inclusion of ethics since it was founded by Director Thomas Moran in 1999. More than 50 professors from 24 departments have taken part in the fellowship program and have made positive changes to their courses based on the research they conducted there. The institute offers faculty the opportunity to become members of an ever-growing community that discusses ethical issues. Moran interacts in this community by working closely with the fellows.

The current fellows are an example of this diversity. Coming from different backgrounds, they provide each other with a fresh perspective. Dr. William Tooke, professor of psychology, who teaches the evolutionary psychology of human morality and is a fellow this semester,



has enjoyed the varying opinions. "It is useful to speak with people from other disciplines," Tooke said. "You can discuss your area of interest with people

coming from a different point of view."

Tooke's research largely focuses on learning how to responsibly tackle the sensitive issue of religion when discussing the evolution of human morality.

"Students often ask me, 'How can we discuss the evolution of human morality without discussing religion and its effect on human morals?'" explained Tooke.

Tooke hopes his research will provide insight into this question and will help him address this issue with his students.

Dr. Laura Eastwood, assistant professor of sociology, is an environmental sociologist as well as

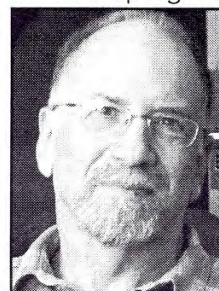


a current fellow. She has come to the institute to research the people of the American West who are responding to problems of resource extraction.

"I have been speaking mostly to ranchers who have coal extracted from their land by the government," Eastwood explained.

Much of her research is on civic engagement and how people see themselves in society. She plans on using her findings in the classroom and hopes to encourage her students to question how they view themselves as political agents through a sociological perspective.

Dr. Laurence Soroka, chair and associate professor of expeditionary studies, has had a different experience at the institute. At the beginning of his research, Soroka focused on the ethics of risk. As the semester progressed, his experience



at the institute changed, and he no longer remained focused on this topic.

"I became a student again," Soroka explained. "I

wanted to revisit material I had not studied in years."

While Soroka is still researching his original topic and plans on bringing his findings back to his department, the institute has opened his eyes to explore new areas.

The institute has reminded him of his original passion for teaching.

"The institute has opened up so many doors and has been only a positive experience," Soroka reflected. □

Melissa Golio '08

Teacher Education Unit Works on Universal Design for Learning: Helping Every Student Learn

The college's teacher education unit is promoting **Universal Design for Learning**, an approach to building classroom environments that accommodates the differing needs of all learners, including those with special needs.

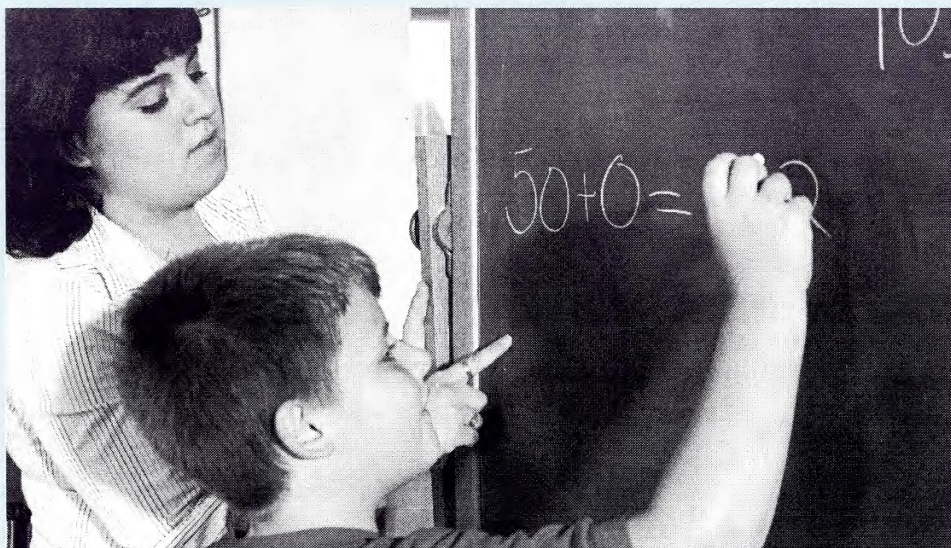
The UDL model builds flexibility in teaching while maintaining academic integrity. It offers diverse learners a means to access content, process information, demonstrate knowledge and actively engage in learning.

In January, Dr. Aline Bobys, Jean Ann Hunt, Jean Mockry '75 G'78 CAS'87, and Dr. Denise Simard '90 presented their use of UDL in teacher preparation courses in a paper at the Technology, Reading, and Learning Diversity conference in San Francisco.

The four professors comprise an interdisciplinary team that has collaborated and taught required childhood education courses organized around enduring understandings.

UDL provides a framework for creating unique, flexible, and student-centered course experiences for students preparing to be teachers. The power of this design is that it models and engages our students in UDL approaches to creating classroom environments.

A seminar titled, "Universal Design for Learning: Ten Things Everyone Needs to Know," sponsored by SUNY

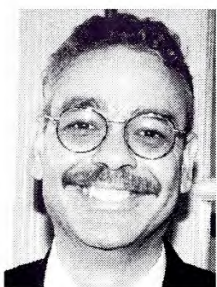


Plattsburgh's Special Education Department, the Education, Health, and Human Services Dean's Office, and College Auxiliary Services, was held in April. Dr. Joy Smiley Zabala, a general and special educator who specializes in assistive technology, presented. Zabala is a founding member of the Quality Indicators of Assistive Technology (QIAT) Consortium and has provided professional development to local, state, national and international educational systems. She described her Student, Environment, Tasks, Tools Framework, a problem-identification and solution-seeking process that supports collaborative work by students, parents, and

multidisciplinary professionals.

Bobys, Hunt, Mockry, and Simard will again present at the Technology, Reading, and Learning Diversity conference next spring. At this presentation, they will share the reflective journey they have taken with their student cohort over the past three semesters. They will discuss lessons learned in integrating UDL, understandings with 21st century technologies, cultural competencies, and literacy principles and practices. The interdisciplinary approach to organizing and teaching courses using the UDL framework shows our future teachers how to accommodate learners with diverse needs and abilities in regular classrooms. □

>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



Dr. Jose Torres, professor of English and Latin American studies, just had a book published under the name J.L. Torres. "The Family Terrorist and Other Stories" is a collection of 11 stories about Latino communities in the Northeast. It was published by Arte Publico Pr this September.

To submit an entry for Faculty and Staff Showcase, send information to news@plattsburgh.edu.



FOCUS

Plattsburgh

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FOCUS is published eight times per semester by the Office of Public Relations at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

Editor: Michelle Ouellette

Assistant Editor: Gerianne Wright

Fall 2008 FOCUS Schedule

Dec. 5

Spring 2009 FOCUS Schedule

Jan. 30

Feb. 13

Feb. 27

Mar. 13

Mar. 27

April 10

April 24

May 8

To submit a story idea for FOCUS, please e-mail news@plattsburgh.edu. Information must be received two weeks prior to publication date. See above schedule for dates.

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Feedback on Focus

Please send any feedback, concerns or content ideas to Michelle Ouellette via e-mail at news@plattsburgh.edu or phone at 518-564-3095.

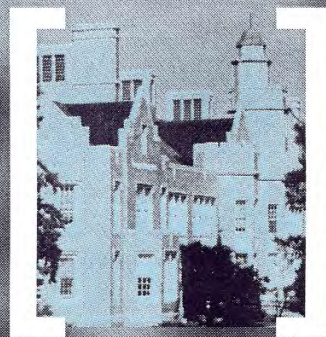
>> NOTEBOOK

- Public reading/book signing, "The Wettest County in the World," Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Krinowitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. English Professor and novelist Matthew Bondurant will read from his latest book. Free. 518-561-1618.
- Karen Becker and Friends, Saturday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Dr. Karen Becker, piano. Janet Harriman, harp. Free. 518-564-2283.
- Presidents Gala, Saturday, Nov. 22, 8-11 p.m., Warren Ballrooms, Angell College Center.
- "Out of Exile: Narratives from the Abducted and Displaced People of Sudan," editor Craig Walzer speaks, Tuesday, Nov. 25 p.m., 12:15 in Room 202, Yokum Hall.
- North Country Ballet Ensemble presents "The Nutcracker," Friday, Nov. 28-Sunday, Nov. 30, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Hartman Theatre, Myers Fine Arts Building.
- Sinfonia Concert, Monday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium. Elizabeth Gorevic, director. Free. 518-564-2283.
- Poetry Reading with Jazz Combo, Monday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Alumni Conference Room, Angell College Center. Visiting poet/recording artist Barry Wallenstein performs with the SUNY Jazz Combo.
- Women's Studies Forum: Engaging Men in Struggle to End Sexism and Violence Against Women, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 12:30-1:15 p.m., Krinovitz Hall, Hawkins Hall. 518-564-3002.
- "Voices of Men," Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m., Krinovitz Recital Hall, Hawkins Hall. A funny, provocative, one-man play, to end men's violence against women. Free. 518-564-3305.
- Guitar Concert, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium. Michael Angelo Fratino, director. Free. 518-564-2283.
- "Ringing Down the Curtain," Wednesday, Dec. 3 and Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Hartman Theatre, Myers Fine Arts. A showcase of student theater works. Free. 518-564-2284.
- Undergraduate Juried Exhibition Opening, Friday, Dec. 5, 3-5 p.m. Myers Lobby Gallery, Myers Fine Arts Building. Free. 518-564-2474.
- History Senior Project Presentations, Friday, Dec. 5, 8:30-12 p.m. and 1:15 - 5 p.m., in the Alumni Room, Angell College Center. 518-564-5212.
- Champlain Valley Voices in Handel's "Messiah," Saturday, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium. Tickets at the door, Myers Pharmacy or Corner-Stone Bookshop, or from CVV members. \$17 general; \$12 senior citizens/students; \$5 children under 12; \$2 SUNY Plattsburgh students at Angell College Center desk. 518-564-2283.
- Undergraduate Juried Exhibition, through March 22, Myers Lobby Gallery, Myers Fine Arts Building. Free. 518-564-2474.
- "Rockwell Kent: This Is My Own," through May 17, New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y. Exhibition of fine art from the Plattsburgh State Art Museum, Rockwell Kent Collection. 518-474-5877.

Events Calendar: www.plattsburgh.edu/events

FOCUS

PUBLISHED BY SUNY PLATTSB



DEC. 5, 2008



President Announces Hiring Freeze Effective Immediately

In response to the state's financial crisis and directives from the State University of New York, SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettling announced a hiring freeze on Monday, Dec. 1. Going into effect immediately, the freeze is one of many cost-saving measures that will be needed as the college faces significant budget cuts in the current fiscal year.

All open searches have been suspended for the foreseeable future, with the exception of those determined to be critical to the mission of the college by the President's Cabinet.

In addition, revisions are being made to faculty sabbaticals for the 2009-10 academic year. These sabbaticals will be funded at half pay for either a full academic year or for one semester.

"As the fiscal crisis deepens, we expect additional cuts in the coming months," said Ettling in a message to the campus community. "Therefore,

we are reviewing several other budget reduction measures across the campus and expect to have the details of a new management plan in the coming weeks."

At the College Council meeting on that same day, Vice President for Administration John Homburger '75 noted that there will be painful decisions to make, but that those decisions will be made in a thoughtful and careful manner.

"The people here take it very seriously and work together on it," said Homburger.

The president pledged to keep the campus community informed as budget details solidify. He has also requested that any cost-saving or revenue-generating suggestions be forwarded to himself or the vice presidents. Furthermore, he asks everyone to prevent the spread of misinformation or rumors by checking facts with supervisors or vice presidents. □

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Student Takes International Honors for DNA Research

SUNY Plattsburgh was well represented at this year's international undergraduate Sigma Xi conference in Washington, D.C., this November. Ten of the 300 students in attendance were from the college.

SUNY Plattsburgh undergraduates analyzing DNA under Dr. Nancy Elwess and Sandra Latourelle have been gathering major honors at such

events over the past several years. They've won top honors at regional, national and international conferences, and this one was no exception.

This time, Nishank Bhalla, a junior biochemistry major, won a top award for his research sequencing DNA from skeletons of the ancient Maya. This is the second time that Bhalla received this honor for his efforts to determine

if the Maya had Beta-Thalassemia, a disorder previously thought to have come to the Americas from the Old World.

Other students are studying a newly found hemoglobin gene in planaria or working with the psychology department, looking at why some genes, like the thrill-seeking gene, may express themselves behaviorally while others may not. □



FOCUS

Student's Paper Wins Award at History Conference

Eric Petersen, a junior history major, won an award for the paper he presented at the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society's regional conference at Siena College last month.

He presented the paper, titled "The New York World's Fair, 1930-1940: GM's Futurama and Robert Moses," as part of a panel on capitalism. It was chosen as the best on his panel.

Petersen was one of four students from SUNY Plattsburgh presenting at the conference. The others were Steven Booth, Erin Conners and Dan Racine. Student Neal Reilly was also in attendance.

All made a good impression on attendees, according to Assistant Professor of History Connie Shemo. Faculty from other colleges complimented the students on their participation in the conference discussions.

The event also gave students an opportunity to network with others from colleges like Siena, Union, Hartwick and Marist. □

Teacher Education Students Gain Real-Life Experience Early

These days, students in the teacher education programs are getting a great deal of hands-on experience. They go into local classrooms beginning the first semester of their freshman year, and they do not just observe what is happening, they contribute to it.

"We strive for minimal sitting and observing," said Dr. David Hill, dean of education, health, and human services. "To the extent that the teacher and principal will allow, we want our students to be involved in giving back to the classroom and the teacher."

As a result, from day one, college students may find themselves working with a whole class or with individual students, reading or helping them with math, English or social skills.

In the past, education students generally had to wait until their senior year to gain such experience, and this could cause problems. Students might take three years of college, believing that teaching was the career for them, only to find out in their senior year that they didn't particularly care for the profession. Now they find out sooner.

"Some, not many, have opted out of the program," said Connie Marsh, assistant director of field experience and student teaching. "They discovered that teaching doesn't fit with who they are or what their professional path should be."

That is part of the reason for the new structure, according to Hill. "We give the students information so that they can decide if this is what they want to do."

For Marsh, the changes have meant that she has had to match more than 400 students with teachers in 21 area schools for pre-student-teaching field placements this semester. This number has increased by approximately one third over that of previous years. Fortunately for Marsh and for the students, local schools have been very supportive and open to sponsoring the students.

Marsh tells about how, on a Friday afternoon, she sent a request to local



principals asking if they would sponsor the students. She expected replies to come in slowly over the next week, but to her delight, the responses started pouring in immediately.

She has found great support among teachers as well. At the newest school in the program, one in Rouses Point, 17 out of 24 teachers volunteered to sponsor students. The school has even helped to teach the college students by setting up panels of parents, faculty and administration. This sort of generosity has made an impact on the students.

"They were magic to begin with, and they have only grown," said Marsh, who describes how the college students come back from their experiences with tears of joy in their eyes. "It's wonderful."

Part of what makes these experiences work is that the freshmen are now placed in cohort groups, and the groups go to the schools together with a faculty member who can utilize teachable moments to help students and also serve a liaison with the teachers and principals.

"Any problems are kept small and solved quickly because of these connections," said Marsh.

She adds that none of this could happen without the support of dedicated professionals at the local schools.

"We deeply value our school partners and appreciate their continuing support," said Marsh. □

Members of SUNY Plattsburgh Community Donate Time, Music to Help Local Children in Need

Faculty and staff have joined forces to ensure that local children have a happy holiday season. For the second year in a row, Dr. Christopher Martine, assistant professor of biological sciences, and Tim Hartnett '82, associate librarian, have co-produced a benefit Christmas CD. All profits from its sales will go to the Clinton County Christmas Bureau.

Martine, who came up with the idea, and Hartnett convinced 12 additional local musicians to donate tracks this year, allowing them to offer two volumes for sale. As a result, "Santa Night: The Soundtrack," volumes one and two are now on sale in local stores, including the College Store.

The following members of the SUNY Plattsburgh community have donated their time and/or talent to the project:

- Dr. Rick Davies and the Plattsburgh State Contemporary Combo with Davies, chair of the music department, (trombone and conducting), and students Jamie Armstrong (alto saxophone), Shawn Parrotte (electric guitar), Dylan Lacey (piano), Chris Shacklett (bass), Peter Fiore (drums and arrangement), Eric Reeves (percussion).

- The Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir under the direction of Dr. Dexter Criss, associate professor of chemistry.

- The Ralphie Parkers with Martine (vocals), student Steve Langdon '93 (acoustic guitar

and vocals), Hartnett (electric bass guitar and vocals) and Assistant Professor of History Richard Schaefer (drums).

The CDs are released by Plattsburgh Santa Night, a group that will collect the funds raised and contribute them to the Christmas Bureau. □



>> FACULTY AND STAFF SHOWCASE



Ken Baldwin, assistant professor and coordinator for the fitness and wellness leadership major, will present the following lectures: "Developing Educationally Based Personal Training Sessions," and "Personal Career Track Development for the Fitness Professional" this Feb. 6-8 at the Canadian Fitness Professional Conference in Montréal, Canada.



Michael Cashman '03 G'06, coordinator of student activities, was presented with the first Alumni Service Award for his continuing support of the Student Support Services program. Plattsburgh receives one of the 25 largest SSS grants in the nation for its program which serves more than 400 students. Cashman, who was an SSS student during his undergraduate career at Plattsburgh, continues to acknowledge the role it played in his successes at the college. His support means so much to the program that the award, which will be given out annually, has been named in his honor.



Monica Ciobanu, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, presented the paper, "Revisiting the November 1987 Workers' Anti-Communist Revolt in Brasov," at the national convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Philadelphia, Pa.



Dr. Robert Weiss, professor of sociology and criminal justice, had a recent article, "From Cowboy Detectives to Soldiers of Fortune: Private Security Contracting and Its Contradictions on the New Frontiers of Capitalism," published in the journal, Social Justice. This article has been translated to Farsi and will now appear in both the Journal of Faculty of Law and Political Science at Shahid Beheshti University (formerly the National University of Iran) and the Faculty of Law and Political Science Journal at the University of Tehran. It will also be reprinted in December's special issue on private security of the Review of African Political Economy.

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Feedback on Focus

Please send any feedback, concerns or content ideas to Michelle Ouellette via e-mail at news@plattsburgh.edu or phone at 518-564-3095.

Commencement Set for Dec. 13

Winter Commencement will take place on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. in the Field House on Ruger Street. An estimated 400 students will graduate at the ceremony.

Student Association President Angel Acosta '08 will be featured as the student speaker. Acosta will discuss the importance of civic engagement at this critical juncture in our nation's history.

SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettling will preside over the ceremony,

with Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jay Stein presenting the candidates for degrees. College Council Chair Arnold Amell '53 and Vice Chair M. Catherine Hollinshead will award the diplomas along with council members Acosta, Roger Burke, Karen Edwards G'84, Heidi H. Kelly, Martin D. Mannix Jr. G'64 and Dr. Soham Patel.

The event will also feature music played by the Adirondack Bass and the Elgin and District Pipes and Drums. □

>> NOTEBOOK

- G.F. Handel's "Messiah" for chorus, soloists and orchestra, Saturday, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. Performed by Champlain Valley Voices and SUNY Plattsburgh Choral Union – Dr. Karen Becker, artistic director; Margaret Meyer, soprano; Jo Ellen Miano, alto; James Benjamin Rodgers, tenor; and Matthew Anchel, bass. Tickets at the door, at Myers Pharmacy and Corner-Stone Bookshop in Plattsburgh or from CVV members. \$17 general admission; \$12 senior citizens and students; \$5 children under 12; and \$2 for SUNY Plattsburgh students when purchasing at the Angell College Center desk. 518-564-2283.
- Soulful Christmas Celebration, Sunday, Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m. E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium, Hawkins Hall. The Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir's annual Christmas concert will feature works by James Cleveland, Richard Smallwood, Joe Pace, Donald Lawrence, Kirk Franklin and much more. The group will also perform traditional Christmas songs with a taste of gospel, including favorites "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain."
- Winter Commencement, Saturday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m. Field House Gymnasium. Angel Acosta '08, president of the Student Association, will be the student speaker.
- "People and Politics," an exhibition of work from the Plattsburgh State Student Association Collection, through Jan. 11, noon-4 p.m. daily, except legal holidays and Dec. 24-Jan. 1, Burke Gallery, Myers Fine Arts Building. A selection of work from the Plattsburgh State Student Association Collection. Free. 518-564-2474.
- Undergraduate Juried Exhibition, through March 22, noon-4 p.m. daily, except legal holidays and Dec. 24 - Jan. 1, Myers Lobby Gallery, Myers Fine Arts Building. An exhibition of current work by SUNY Plattsburgh students enrolled in art department studio classes. Free. 518-564-2474.
- "Rockwell Kent: This Is My Own," through May 17, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y. Exhibition of fine art from the Plattsburgh State Art Museum, Rockwell Kent Collection. The exhibition chronicles the life and work of Rockwell Kent; included are paintings, drawings, prints, books, bookplates, photographs, dinnerware, advertising art and more. 518-474-5877.
- "Andy Warhol: Portraits from the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy," Jan. 23-March 29, noon-4 p.m. daily, Burke Gallery, Myers Fine Arts Building. This exhibit features a selection of original Polaroid photographs and gelatin silver prints given to the Plattsburgh State Art Museum by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in honor of the foundation's 20th anniversary.

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